

# Pocatello Valley Fire District-Mitigation Plan

The Pocatello Valley Fire District is located in the northern part of Bannock County and consists of agricultural and rural housing. The District covers approximately 37 square miles and the Department protects 716 homes with a value of \$62,918,000.00.

The Pocatello Valley Fire District is a volunteer department currently with 28 volunteers including the Fire Chief. The Department responds to 30 calls for service each year.

The Department operates a 6x6 250 fast attack pumper, a 750 gallon brush truck and a 2500 gallon tender.

The Department has participated in some wildland fire training offered through the BLM. The Department has several new employees that need initial training and would be interested in some advanced courses.

The Department has a good history of prevention programs. They conduct an annual open house and distribute information to District patrons. Many home evaluations have been conducted through the SCA program.

The Department has the **Red Zone** program and is preparing to start the project.

Several fuels reduction projects have been accomplished in the District. Several homes near the Station have had projects completed. Larger projects include the Cinnamon Ridge Fire Break, West Side and Portneuf projects.

The Fire Chief identified two properties which have opted not to participate in the Fire District. Fraziers Egg Farm and the Gunter Farm in Blackrock. The District has ongoing discussions with the property owners about the value of belonging to the District.

**Water resources** currently used by the Department are Pocatello City water with hydrants on Bannock Highway and Portneuf Road. The Gaile Mountain Subdivision water system and the Portneuf River are other sources.

## **Fire Mitigation Goals**

- |                               |              |
|-------------------------------|--------------|
| • Station Addition            | \$150,000.00 |
| • 1 Heavy Truck               | 100,000.00   |
| • 1 Light Truck               | 50,000.00    |
| • Small Equipment             | 5,000.00     |
| • Wood Chipper                | 20,000.00    |
| • Wildland Fire Training      | 2,000.00     |
| • County Wildland Fire Code   |              |
| • County Mutual Aid Agreement |              |
| • Portable Water Supply       |              |

## **Fire Mitigation Actions**

- Station and Equipment upgrades-work with the Federal Agencies to identify funding sources. Participate in training opportunities for grant writing and work with County, State and Federal Agencies to acquire needed funding.
- Fuels Reduction-Continue to work with BLM and Forest Service on reduction projects in the District. Caribou, Autumn Lane and Gaile Mountain Drive have been discussed as needing fuels reduction. Apply for grants to fund a chipper to be used in the District.
- Wildland Fire training-work with the BLM on setting up courses needed for new volunteers and advanced courses for others. Those are now available through the Eastern Idaho Technical College.
- Wildland Fire Code-participate with a Countywide group to draft and adopt a code.
- Mutual Aid Agreement-participate with other Fire Districts in the County to adopt a mutual aid agreement.
- Portable water Supply-participate with other Fire Districts to acquire and share water tenders.

## **Pocatello Valley Fire Department**

### **Mink Creek/Caribou Road                      HIGH**

**Past Occurrence                      3**

**Fuel Conditions                      5**

**Population                      4**

**Suppression                      3**

*Suggested Mitigation Projects-Fuel reduction project. Adopt wildland interface fire code.*

### **Mink Creek/Cinnamon Ridge/Charlotte/Autumn Lane                      HIGH**

**Past Occurrence                      3**

**Fuel Conditions                      5**

**Population                      4**

**Suppression                      3**

*Suggested Mitigation Projects-Fuel reduction project. Adopt wildland interface fire code.*

### **Gibson Jack                      HIGH**

**Past Occurrence                      3**

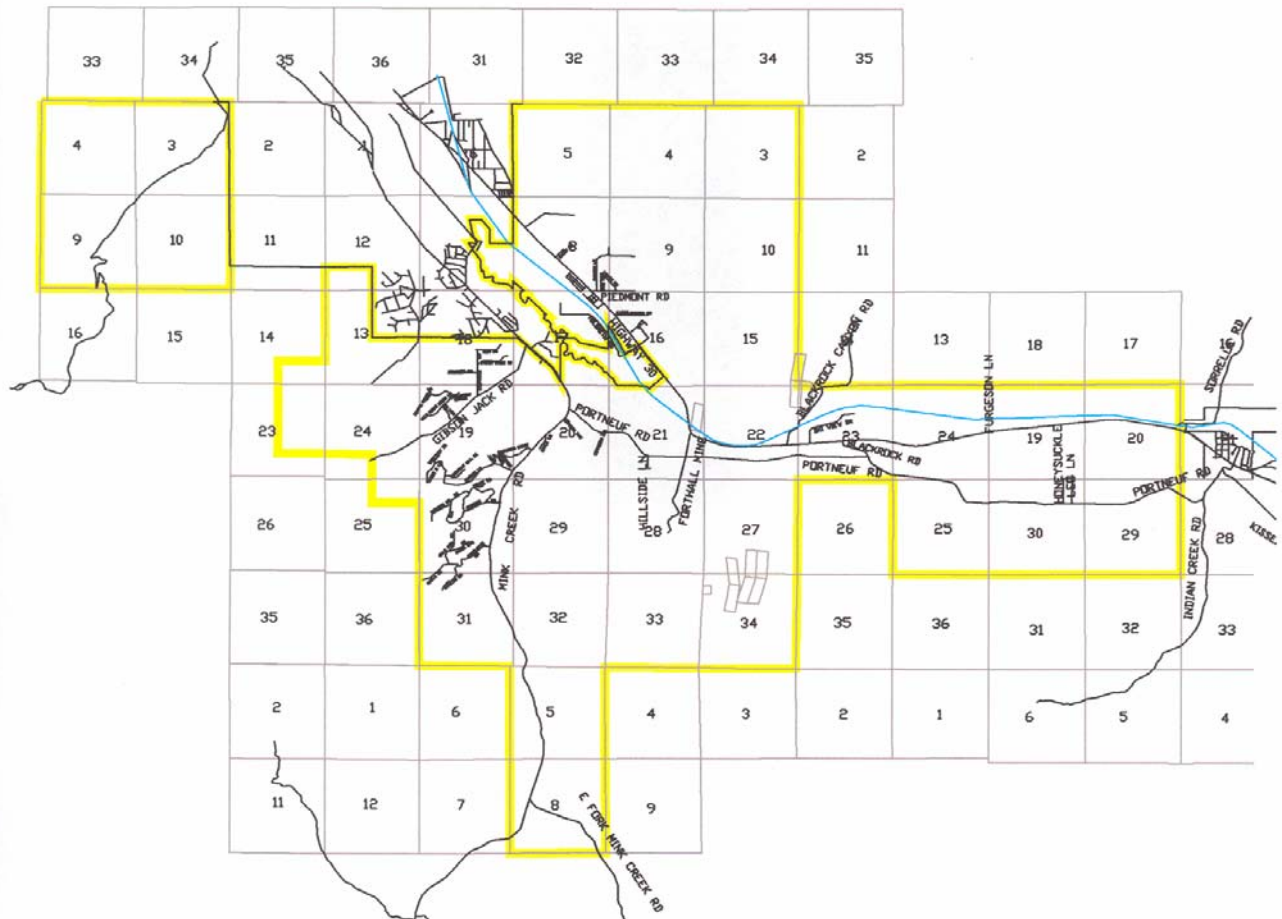
**Fuel Conditions                      4**

**Population                      4**

**Suppression                      3**

*Suggested Mitigation Projects-Fuel reduction. Adopt wildland interface fire code.*

# POCATELLO VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT



**Assessment Overview Report**  
**Pocatello Valley Fire District**  
**Three Rivers Resource, Conservation and Development Area**  
**June 2003**

**Profile of the District:**

The Pocatello Valley Fire District is a fire protection district only. Pocatello is the third largest city in the State of Idaho and the Pocatello Valley District is located just South of the City limits. Its topography is made up of steep hills covered with juniper, pine trees and grasslands. This has been a fast growing area with the primary development being residential. Many of the homes are located on steep banks in the hills overlooking the newly built Century High School. The Caribou National Forest is located to the District's Southern border.

**Organizational Structure**

The Pocatello Valley Fire District reports to the Fire District Commission. The organizational structure includes one chief, an assistant chief, three battalion chiefs, four captains and 20 firefighters. All personnel are volunteers.

**Facilities:**

The District has two fire stations with a total of six bays. One station is located in an area called Cinnamon Ridge which has four bays and the other station is located at Old Highway 91 and Ferguson Road with two bays.

**Response Area:**

The Fire District provides fire protection for agriculture, rangelands, wildland urban interface, forest, residential, business, high tech (new telephone company switch) and high risk (tire warehouse, truck repair shop). The District serves 20 square mile area.

**Budget and Funding:**

The budget has remained steady over the past five years. Tax dollars fund 100% of the budget. Funding through grants is not added to the base budget.

**Grants:**

Grants have been a source of funding for the District in the past including grants from the BLM and Forest Service, private foundations and individual donations. The District is familiar with the National Fire Plan and the organization will continue to seek grant funding opportunities.

### **Records Management:**

A comprehensive, computerized records management system is in place that tracks training, personnel, and building and vehicle maintenance. The Chief is in the process of building a database system for the old records. The District currently uses Windows Office Manager software.

### **Firefighting Program:**

There are 30 personnel within the firefighting program that are volunteers. Fire response includes protection for structures, wildland fire suppression, EMS, HazMat, and terrorist threat. The area is at high risk for wildland urban interface fires but is of little risk for terrorist attack. All members of the firefighting team are trained in wildland suppression. The District responds to approximately 27 fire-related incidents annually. Water sources are adequate and reliable with the primary water supply coming from water mains, hydrants and bodies of water. The District is capable of meeting the 10-minute arrival on the scene response for scene size-up, initial attack interior and exterior, call for assistance, water supply hydrant or water tender operations.

#### **Firefighting Program Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs**

<b>Existing Resources/Assets</b>	<b>Needs</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 2 Station, 6 Bays</li><li>• Volunteer Personnel</li><li>• 3,000 Structural/150 Wildland Total GPM Capacity</li><li>• Computerized Record Keeping System</li><li>• Fire Response: Structural, Wildlands, HazMat, EMS, Terrorist Threat</li><li>• 1Structural/2 Structural/Wildlands &amp; 2 Wildlands Response Vehicles</li><li>• Lighting and Generator Trailer</li><li>• Grid Access Address System</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fire Software</li><li>• High Speed Computer with Additional Memory</li><li>• Red Zone Mapping</li><li>• Implementation of Codes for Roads &amp; Driveways</li><li>• Dry Hydrants</li><li>• Underground Water Storage Tanks and Pumps</li><li>• Housing Developers Prove They Can Supply Water for Fire Protection of Development</li><li>• Professional Grant Writer</li><li>• Improved Grant Notification to the Districts</li><li>• Library of Grant Sources for Fire/EMS Only</li></ul>

### **Hazardous Materials Program:**

The District does not have a HazMat team in place. It will respond to assist and stabilize the scene until a team arrives. Current mutual aids agreements are in place with the Forest Service, BLM. The chief is working on an agreement with the Inkom Fire District.

### **EMS Program:**

The Department does not provide EMS services because of its close proximity to Pocatello. It will respond for support if called.

## Training and Certification:

All Fire District members are required to attend 60% of all District meetings and trainings. Minimum training requirements include structural protection, wildland fire suppression, EMS, HazMat and emergency vehicle driving.

### Training and Certification Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Structural Protection - IFSTA Essentials</li><li>• Wildlands Fire Suppression</li><li>• EMS CPR, First Aid</li><li>• HazMat Awareness</li><li>• IFSTA Training Program</li><li>• Standard Operating Procedures</li><li>• Training Materials</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Ongoing Classes, On-Site</li><li>• Refresher Courses</li><li>• Grants to Fund Training</li><li>• Current NWCG Manuals &amp; Refresher Training</li><li>• IFSTA Student Manuals and Workbooks</li><li>• Current Videos, Overheads, Slides</li><li>• Distance Learning Program</li></ul>

## Communications:

Communications are dispatched out of the Bannock County 911 system. The District does respond to remote alarm calls and all vehicles are radio equipped. The District does not have sufficient portable hand-held radios. Communication is not adequate with other entities.

### Communication Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Responds to Remote Alarm Calls</li><li>• Portable Radios</li><li>• All Vehicles Radio Equipped</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increase Frequencies</li><li>• Mobile and Hand-Held Radios</li><li>• Communication with Other Entities</li></ul>

## Prevention and Inspection:

The District does administer and enforce Fire Code regulations. It does not conduct investigations for fire cause and origin. The Chief would like to see more communication with contractors and developers to make sure codes are being met before construction begins.

### Prevention and Inspection Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs

Existing Resources/Assets	Needs
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fire Code Enforcement</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Increased Communication with Developers</li></ul>

## **Public Education:**

The Department does provide public educational programs for wildland fires, structural fires, home safety and general safety tips. It also conducts public outreach at fairs, public events, and fire station events.

### **Public Education Summary of Existing Resources, Assets and Needs**

<b>Existing Resources/Assets</b>	<b>Needs</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Public Education</li><li>• Public Outreach</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Improve Programming</li></ul>